

upon the group resource limit being exceeded, enabling one or more communications restrictions to be implemented, the restrictions including terminating communication between the electronic groupware communication server and the communication units [when the use limit for group resources is exceeded] and selectively enabling predetermined types of communications to continue.

27. (Unchanged) The method according to claim 26 wherein the use limit for group resources is based on a data transmission size of electronic mail messages received and transmitted.

28. (Unchanged) The method according to claim 26 wherein the use limit for group resources is based on an allocated expense for transmitting and receiving electronic mail messages.

29. (Unchanged) The method according to claim 26 further comprising:
assigning each user in the first group an individual use limit; and
monitoring the individual use limit of each user.

30. (Unchanged) The method according to claim 29 further comprising applying the individual use limit for individual electronic mail messages.

31. (Unchanged) The method according to claim 29 further comprising:
applying the individual use limit for individual electronic mail messages; and
applying the use limit for group resources for groupware data transfers.

32. (Unchanged) The method according to claim 26 further comprising applying the use limit for group resources for groupware data transfers.

REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant amendment, claims 26-32 are pending. Claim 26 has been amended to more particularly and distinctly claim applicant's invention.

35 U.S.C. § 103 REJECTIONS:

Claims 26-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barnes et al., U. S. Patent No. 4,888,681 ("Barnes") in view of Srinivasan, U. S.